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January 18, 2011

The Honorable Larry EchoHawk  
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs  
United States Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**RE: Recent Decision Upholding Tribal Sovereignty**

Dear Assistant Secretary EchoHawk:

On the well known Turtle Talk website I learned that your office made a recent ruling dated December 22, 2011, regarding the California Valley Miwok Tribe. I write this letter on behalf of the Habematolel Pomo Tribe of Upper Lake to thank you for the courage to uphold the California Valley Miwok Tribe's sovereignty. Indeed, all federally recognized Indian tribes—as sovereign nations—have the right to define their own membership. The BIA and the various States should allow tribes to resolve their own membership disputes. Your decision clearly left membership issues in the hands of the existing General Council, and you made the correct decision.

With this decision, you have preserved and protected the sovereign rights of all federally-recognized tribes throughout the country and such actions will not go unnoticed.

Thank you for dedication to this issue.

Sincerely,

Sherry Treppa  
Chairperson  
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

